

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Digital Commons @ ESF

The Knothole

College Archives

11-24-1969

The Knothole, November 24, 1969

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.esf.edu/knothole>



Part of the [Communication Commons](#), [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [Environmental Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body, "The Knothole, November 24, 1969" (1969). *The Knothole*. 179.

<https://digitalcommons.esf.edu/knothole/179>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives at Digital Commons @ ESF. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Knothole by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ESF. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@esf.edu, cjkoons@esf.edu.



VOLUME 20, NO. 6 - SUNY COLLEGE OF FORESTRY - NOV. 24, 1969

FOREST FIRES

Forest fires in the United States alone, destroy enough timber annually to build 25,000 homes, furnish baseball bats to every player in the nation from Little leagues to Major Leagues; and print all the comic books, magazines and newspapers in the nation!

Everyone has a stake in forest fire prevention. Aside from the aesthetic values of the woods involved, the appreciable loss of timber by forest fires is one of the contributing factors in the high cost of lumber.

- The Conservationist
Oct-Nov 1969
Vol. 24, no. 2

THE KNOTHOLE

Published: Every Monday by Alpha Xi Sigma
Deadline: Monday A.M. one week before publication
Articles: Please sign name and so indicate if you do not wish to have name printed. We welcome all articles, gossip, notices, suggestions, and new staff members.
Editors: John Boreman Marlene Halinar
Norman Booth Janine Newmiller
Associate Editors: Cathy Wangerman Mickey Sull
Mary Schuschni Mike Lynch
Typist: Pat Kingsley
Cover: Mickey Sull

EDITORIAL

Twice a year the student walks into his advisor's office, gets his schedule card signed and leaves. Not much is said during that five minute visit besides the advisor suggesting electives or the student giving reasons why he does not want any eight o'clocks for the semester. In many cases, this is the only time during the semester that the student goes to see his advisor. This is wrong.

I remember the line that the Drill Instructor gave the new recruits in No Time For Sergeants: "We are only here to help you." This is also the purpose of the advisor, to help the students not only in classwork, but also in matters that affect the students' lives outside the classroom. How can the advisors help the students, though, if the students refuse to take the initiative to approach them? In many instances, a question or problem goes unsolved because of the lack of the initiative on the students' part.

Some advisors demand that the students come to see them at least once during the semester, but this idea is floundering because the students still fail to respond. What can be done to make the students more aware of how valuable a good relationship with their advisor could be?

One solution is to hold an open forum on the advisor system and to have the students and advisors each present their gripes and try to iron things out. But once again, the forum will be faced with the problem of lack of initiative on the student's (as well as the faculty's) part. Another solution is to have a more elaborate presentation of the role of the advisor to the freshmen during their orientation program.

The only way to get over the hump of the advisor system is to get the students of the College to take greater interest in the role of the advisor, and for the advisor to take greater interest in his role also. I feel, and hope, that the only reason that the advisor system at our College is deteriorating is the fact that neither the advisor nor the advisee know enough about each other. So, for the meantime, pay your advisor a visit or at least send him a Christmas Card!

JB

2

AEΣ MEETING
MONDAY NOV. 24
6:30 PM
12 ILICK

by Mary Schuschni

The trees have a secret
to whisper to you
incline your head this way
move closer to me
before I speak
I want to show you
a tree;
a tree and a tree
growing side by side,
separate seeds that grew
in a single old stump
that is rotted and gone, now
leaving no trace
but two trees that have grown
into one
where it stood.
Yellow birch is a hardwood
Eastern hemlock is soft
like a man
and a woman...
(step nearer to me.)

I was under the impression that there was a system of campus mail. There is, for example, a box located on the first floor of Bray on the stairwell across from room 105. When I returned from the student leaders' conference, I was eager to initiate a series of student-faculty seminars. I did not have any free time for discussing this with faculty until Wednesday so I sent off a series of notes early Monday morning. Monday evening on my way out at 5:00 after a hard day I was appalled to notice my mail along with stacks of other official looking mail still crammed in the mailbox. It is Tuesday afternoon now, and the notes are still in the box, with the exception of those I removed to deliver myself. Is it my imagination, or is the College fully inefficient???

P.S. I apologize to those faculty who may never receive the notes that I sent out to them.

Mary Schuschni

STUDENT LEADERS' CONFERENCE

ED. NOTE: This is the first of a three part series on what was accomplished at the Student Leaders' Conference.

Topic II - Student Involvement in Evaluation

It was felt that, regarding course evaluation, student initiation and participation was desirable. It was agreed that results of evaluation of courses by students could be beneficial to professors by pointing out weaknesses in their courses, provided that they did not try to rationalize the results; that the objectives of the student in taking the course were outlined in the questionnaire; and that the students, through their interest and concern, gave a thoughtful evaluation which would lead to meaningful results.

It was proposed that the present student course evaluation questionnaire be revised, reworded for clarity and reorganized to define student objectives, goals and reasons for taking that particular course. A selected group of faculty members would be solicited to aid in evaluating and working over the evaluation questionnaire.

The value and use of grades, a necessary evil, was discussed. Regarding student involvement in grading procedures, it was concluded that students are very wary of having an effect on the grade of a peer; peer group evaluation is not feasible except in some instances. It was felt that it would be more practical for a professor to use many different "tools" of grading, that is, types of tests, to evaluate students. The idea of a grievance committee was discussed and it was suggested that it would be better for an individual student to go to an instructor about a grade. No definite proposal was made concerning student involvement in grading procedure.

The purpose and benefits of the Pass-Fail Option were discussed. Concluded that: it is less critical, encourages students to branch out, to take courses which are not directly related to their program. The instructor grades the pass-fail student along with the rest of the class, only the registrar knows which students are taking the course "pass-fail". Proposal: That the College of Forestry institute a study of the Pass-Fail Option, with no minimum average requirement, limited to one course per semester. Only courses taken as

THREE

Continued on Page 6

THREE

A TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT

by Mike Lynch

If any of you have been wandering around the second floor of Bray Hall during the past three months and have seen a tall, distinguished-looking, greyish man wearing a summer suit and bow tie combination, then you have probably seen our new President, Dr. Edward E. Palmer.

However, don't let the old-fashioned exterior fool you. Dr. Palmer has the vision, enthusiasm, honesty and understanding of a college demonstrator. Those were the impressions I received of our new President during a recent interview for The Knothole.

President Palmer is one of those individuals who has the rare combination of youth's vision seasoned with an elder's expertise. He is an idealist, with his eyes on the future, yet is concerned with the present, and practical enough to be able to deal with both the present and future.

Although Dr. Palmer has only been here three months, he has gained a fierce loyalty to the College of Forestry. He may not admit this; he doesn't have to. When he talks about the College's future, his words gain momentum as enthusiasm creeps into his voice.

The College of Forestry has the highest percentage of research of any college or university in New York State, according to Dr. Palmer. Many of the nation's problems are directly related to research being performed here at the College. Once the war is over, and more funds are released, the college cannot help but grow. You may wonder where and how we can grow, but Dr. Palmer has a vision and practical ideas for expansion.

A minor application of President Palmer's idealism can be seen from his view on the student leaders' conference. He feels now is the time to start planning for next year's conference. The date and the agenda should be worked upon now, not three or four weeks before the conference. "Yet," Dr. Palmer says, "there should not be any need for a conference. Why do we have to get away from the school to be able to sit down and talk man to man? If we are doing our jobs, we should continually have that rapport." "However," Dr. Palmer said, "that's the ideal."

Goals such as these are generally hard to reach, President Palmer explained, and

while we are striving for them, opportunities like the student leaders' conference are excellent ways to attain the same results as those of the ideals. The student leaders' conference was good and very productive. The students have already started some type of follow-up, by means of their action committee. The administration has orally reviewed the meeting and is awaiting the written summary of the conference to examine more closely the suggestions and to act upon the more pressing issues.

During the student leaders' conference, President Palmer instilled more dreams into the students present. Standing in the Pack Forest dining hall wearing a white sweat shirt, tan work pants, and tennis sneakers, Dr. Palmer described, during a short keynote address, the duties that student government could do here at the College. He explained how we could become autonomous yet effective organs in helping to form policy within the College. He told us that he would like to see some of the interested students go to Albany, where "the action is," according to Dr. Palmer, and bargain for demands and the College's policy. These are but a couple of examples of the vision and foresight of our new President.

However, don't get the idea the President Palmer is simply a dewy-eyed idealist. Ask any secretary in Bray Hall about Dr. Palmer and she will tell you he is an effective, efficient, and professional man to work for. He likes things done and done right. This is as it should be.

Dr. Palmer is head of our College, the number one school of forestry in the country, and his task is by no means easy. When you consider the politics involved in keeping the local and state governments, plus the SUNY system and S.U. happy, while progressing here at the College, you have an assignment almost as hard as any on "Mission Impossible."

However, there are probably few men in the United States better qualified to hold the job of President of the College of Forestry than Dr. Palmer. He was a professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs for 20 years, director of the SUNY Overseas Academic Program since 1966, and has worked in many positions on all government levels during those years.

Although President Palmer may have a political background, he is not any evasive politician. He answered all of my questions as straightforwardly and with as much candor as possible. For instance, I asked him for his views on the controversy on the name of our school. He honestly replied he wasn't

CONT'D ON PAGE 6



BENNETT - QUAD CONFERENCE
by Mary Schuschni

On Sunday, November 9th, a group of students met at Dr. Bennett's for a follow-up on the Student Leaders' Conference. The two main purposes for the meeting were 1) to set up future dates and topics for faculty student conferences on various topics of mutual interest and 2) to discuss the problem of our quad.

We decided that our first meeting would be held Sunday, December 7 on the advisory system. However, now we have decided to change both the topic and the date. The date is to be changed because Sunday evenings cut into the family time of our faculty and administration. The topic is being changed from advisory system to rules and regulations because the people who were responsible for our rules and regulations will be here to talk to us about them.

We are still in the process of making the final decisions about the next conference, so watch the Knothole for further information.

However, we will be talking about the advisory system soon. If you are interested in either of these topics and would like to participate or submit any ideas, leave them in the Knothole Box in Bray Basement.

The meeting at Dr. Bennett's accomplished several things. It gave the students and faculty further opportunity to get to know one another on an informal basis, to exchange ideas and gripes. Once again, we discovered that we have more in common than we do differences.

We discussed the Quad.. We all agreed that we should investigate the possibilities of action. This was further discussed Wednesday at Student Council. A committee was formed. They have put up some very provocative signs. Watch for them. Read them, participate!

We discussed the roof garden between Bray and Walters. Here, there are funds available. We, the students, can decide what we want done. If you have any brilliant ideas, let us know!

Dr. Simeone suggested that underground tunnels be built so that in winter, interbuilding research can be facilitated.

There are some opportunities to change things for the better. Let's find out what the opportunities are and get to work!

HYDE HILL AUTUMN

Windy days and dusty hills from the farmhouse far away
Look upon the mellowed grain that grew in summer days.
As ruffled feathers on Grackle backs reflect the Autumn sky,
Some lazy clouds float along with Goshawks flying by.
Gazing on the waving grass (whose memory I know will last,) I think of things from distant June that disappeared much too soon
And wonder how the trees will feel
Without birdsong and chipmunk squeal;
Without the sight of Goldfinch wings
Or butterflies and other things.
The thickening water in the pond that hides behind the oak beyond
Will mirror no more the greenish mass when it becomes a frosty glass,
And distant sounds from further lands
Shall speak of snowstorms near at hand,
Whispering tales of lone deer herds
With greyish skies devoid of birds.
These stunning leaves - so red and gold
With many buds yet to unfold,
Now turn my thoughts and their dreams
Of days gone by near wooded streams;

- These precious times recalling thoughts
I know that won't be really lost,
Seems now are blurry - these joys I keep,
As another Autumn goes to sleep.



- Mickey Sull

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

SHOULD THERE BE A QUESTIONNAIRE ON STUDENT COUNCIL ISSUES IN THE REGISTRATION PACKETS FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER? IF YES, WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU SUGGEST SHOULD BE ASKED? PLEASE SUBMIT THIS SHEET WITH YOUR OPINIONS IN ANY KNOTHOLD MAILBOX (BRAY BASEMENT, MARSHALL, ILICK)



STUDENT LEADERS CONFERENCE

Prof. Green and Steve Loomis



President Palmer in action

A TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT
Cont'd from page 4

sure, but that he wondered if a major point was not being overlooked. He feels all of the departments here are related to forestry, but that the public has the wrong concept of what forestry is. For example, he said "some people at Albany think we are a bunch of woodchoppers."

Perhaps the solution to the problem is a mass education program or maybe we should change the name to express some of the of the advanced concepts of forestry.

Dr. Palmer is involved in the College. Although he has not had the opportunity to meet all the students, I'm sure he would like to. If you happen to be wandering around the second floor of Bray and see a man fitting Dr. Palmer's description, stop and introduce yourself. I know he would be happy to meet and talk with you.

STUDENT LEADERS' CONFERENCE
Cont'd from page 5

as electives would be open for pass-fail option. Dates to declare and to drop pass-fail would be stated.

We endorse for consideration that faculty members be presented with the option to have a video-tape made of a lecture for self evaluation.

Proposal: To form a Student Curriculum Committee to voice student opinions on curriculums through the Faculty Curriculum Committee.

Jean Marie Dory
Recorder, Group II

IN
MEMORIUM -
JACK L. KRALL
&
CARL F. HARDERS

HOVERTED MEMORIAL
ARCHIVES